

GERMANTOWN IS OCCUPIED BY RUSSIANS IN THE NORTH

Memel, a German Town in Northern Prussia on the Baltic, is Occupied By Forces of the Russian Army

POLAND IS IMMENSE BOG HOLE FROM THAW

Observers Think Russians Will Endeavor To Drive South Through Prussia and Compel Retirement of Foes

LONDON, Mar. 19.—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines which exploded with the remainder of the allied fleet in attacking the forts in the narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday. The crews of the two British ships were virtually all saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place aboard the Bouvet after she was hit by the mine, and most of her crew was lost. The Bouvet sank in three minutes.

The water in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines but the British Admiralty asserts that the Turks and Germans set floating contraptions of explosives afloat and these were carried down by currents into the allied fleet.

Beyond the operations in the Dardanelles, the most important news of the day concerns the report of occupation by the Russians of Memel, a German port on the Baltic. Memel is a town of considerable importance in northern Prussia, and the presence there of Russian forces is taken by military observers here to indicate that a big sweep down through East Prussia is an endeavor to compel the Germans to fall back from northern Poland, in progress.

Again north Poland is transformed into an immense bog by the thaw that has set in just as Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has started the offensive against Pranzysa. It is declared impossible, except in widely separated high places, to move let alone fight. The Germans, however, have started an offensive in Central Poland, where they commenced an attack on the Russian line in the region of the Pilsa river. There is also heavy fighting in Galicia in the Carpathians and in Bukovina, despite heavy snow.

On the western front no operations of great importance have taken place, although the French continue their efforts to work their way forward in the Champagne and Arzonne regions. The Belgians are still active in the little bit of their territory remaining in their hands.

The political situation as regards Austria and Italy, remains obscure, but there are persistent reports circulating in London, that negotiations for the cession of Austrian territory to Italy has broken down, Italy's demands having been considered excessive.

All the ships sunk in the Dardanelles fighting are old ones. The Bouvet was built twenty years ago, the Ocean and Irresistible in 1898. They were very useful, however, for the work they were engaged in in the Dardanelles.

HUGE 75 MM. SHELL THROWS CARCASS OF HORSE UP IN A TREE



Few people realize what great power there lies in the modern shells and explosives. This unusual picture vividly tells what an enormous amount of destruction a shot from one of the French 75 mm. guns is able to accomplish. When this horse was struck by the shell the force of the shot cut the animal in two and lifted the fore half of the carcass into the tree, as shown in the photo.

DARDANELLES ENGAGEMENT IS EXPLAINED

One French and Two British Warships Sink as Result of Engagement in the Narrows of the Straits

ADMIRALTY PLACES BLAME ON FLOATING MINES

French Ship, Bouvet, Sinks in Three Minutes and Practically the Whole of the Crew Goes to the Bottom

LONDON, Mar. 19.—The Admiralty statement of the operations in the Dardanelles, March 18, follows:

"Mine sweeping having been in progress during the last ten days, a general attack was delivered by British and French ships Thursday morning upon fortresses in the narrows. At ten-thirty-five the Queen Elizabeth, Irresistible, Ocean and Lord Nelson bombarded the forts J. L. T. V. while the Triumph and Prince George fired at batteries E. K. and H. There was heavy fire on the ships from howitzers and field guns. At 11:26 the French squadron, consisting of the Suffren, Gaulois, Charbonneau and Bouvet, advanced up the Dardanelles and engaged the forts at close range.

Fort J. L. T. V. replied strongly. Their fire was silenced by ten battle ships inside the straits. All the ships were hit several times. At 1:25 p. m. all the forts ceased firing. The Venuesse, Irresistible, Albion, Ocean, Suffren and Majestic advanced to relieve the six other battleships inside the straits. As the French squadron, which had engaged the forts in most brilliant fashion, was passing out, the Bouvet was blown up by a drifting mine. She sank in 36 fathoms in three minutes.

At 2:36 relief ships relieved the attack on the forts while a mine sweeper operated. At 4:09 p. m. the Irresistible quit the line, drifting heavily and at 5:50 sank. It probably struck a drifting mine. At 6:00 o'clock the Ocean also sank, having hit a mine. Both sank in deep water. Practically the whole of the crews were removed to safety under a hot fire. The Gaulois was damaged by gun fire.

"The Irresistible had her forward control position hit by a heavy shell and requires repairs. The bombardment of forts and mine sweeping operations terminated when darkness fell. Damage done, effected by the prolonged and direct fire by the heavy forces employed, can not yet be estimated. A further report will follow.

"The loss of the ships was caused by mine drifting with the current, which were encountered in areas hitherto swept clear. This danger will require special treatment. The British casualties were not heavy considering the scale of operations. Practically the whole of the crew of the Bouvet was lost, an internal explosion having apparently supervened on the explosion of the mine. The Queen and Implacable, which have been dispatched from England to replace the ships lost in anticipation of this operation are due to arrive immediately, thus bringing the British fleet up to its original strength.

The operations are continuing with the naval and military forces available on the spot. On Tuesday Vice-Admiral Carden, who has been incapacitated by illness, was succeeded in chief command by Rear-Admiral John Michael de Robeck, with the acting rank of vice-admiral."

HORN HELD TO COURT

BANGOR, Me., Mar. 19.—Werner Horn, charged with the illegal interstate transportation of explosives in connection with his attempt to wreck the international bridge at Vanceboro, will be taken to Boston for trial at the present term of the U. S. Court, as a result of the finding of the Federal Commissioner Reed. The commissioner decided the indictment warrant which was the only evidence offered by the prosecution, sufficient basis for holding the prisoner. A motion by the defense for the release of Horn on the grounds he was a belligerent engaged in war and not amenable to the courts of this country, was denied. It is expected he will be taken to Massachusetts early next week.

HUGE AUSTRIAN GUN TRAINED ON RUSS POSITIONS NEAR WARSAW



At the right is seen one of the large Austrian 30.5 cm. guns which were used with such great effect against the Russian positions in the vicinity of Warsaw. At the left several soldiers are seen carting a 500-pound shell along the wooden plank tracks to be loaded into the gun. These Austrian guns are similar in construction to the 42 centimeter Krupp guns used by the Germans.

PAST ELECTION IN TERRE HAUTE WAS VERY WARM

Women Watchers Insulted, Election Board Members Thrown Out, Court Orders Turn Up, According to Evidence

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar. 19.—Precinct B of the sixth ward, in Terre Haute, was clearly the liveliest place in town last election day, according to witnesses before Judge Anderson in the U. S. District court. The cases against the men who were indicted for conspiring to corrupt a federal election. Women watchers at the polls were insulted, election board members were thrown out of the polling places; court orders were torn up and finally all arrangements were made to falsify the returns if need be, according to witnesses.

Sylvester Jordan, a Democratic committeeman, one of the eighty-eight men who pleaded guilty, said: "Chief of Police Holler came down to the precinct after the polls were closed. He told me to have the returns held back until late in the night. He said to add a hundred or two votes to save Redman. I told him all right, but later I got word we wouldn't have to add any votes."

A number of witnesses told how George Spilley and Sherman Mann, Progressive members of the election board, were thrown out of the voting place after a restraining order, issued by Judge Cox, had been destroyed. They were re-elected by Judge Cox's special ballots later in the day. W. S. McCoy, one of the special ballots, also told of a trip to Taylorville precinct to arrest the entire election board when the ballots, he said, were driven away by Joe Jeffries with a revolver.

"While Joe was still shooting and the crowd running," said McCoy, "I saw two city policemen nearby. I asked them why they did not take a hand. They told me they did not see anything wrong."

VILLA FORCES NEAR BORDER

BROWNVILLE, Mar. 19.—Reports of nearby Villa forces were received tonight in Matamoros, opposite here. The Carranza commander left with a trainload of troops to meet them. Camargo, a Mexican border town seventy miles up the Rio Grande from here, is reported to have been burned by Villa forces. Filibusterers from Texas, it is said, attacked the Villa forces.

CLEARED OR MURDER

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Mar. 19.—Mrs. Helen Angle was found not guilty of manslaughter by a jury in the criminal superior court. She was accused of having caused the death of Walter Ballou, her aged son, at Stamford on the night of June 23 last. Ballou fell down the stairs leading from her apartment. The announcement of the verdict was greeted with cheers. Mrs. Angle collapsed.

HER BAL MASQUE WAS SEASON'S MOST BRILLIANT AFFAIR



Mrs. Lincoln Valentine.

LOS ANGELES WATER IS DECLARED GOOD AND PURE

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 19.—Superior Judge Works upheld the contention of the city of Los Angeles that its \$250,000,000 Owens River aqueduct system furnishes pure water, excellent for human consumption and denied injunctions to two plaintiffs who sought to prevent distribution of the aqueduct water on the ground that it was polluted. The suit is said to be the second largest of its kind ranking second to the attempt of St. Louis to enjoin Chicago from using the Chicago drainage canal.

The Los Angeles case centered on the question of whether the great Huiwee reservoir, holding 21,000,000,000 gallons of water, was a purifying agent sufficient to overcome the contamination to which any system obtaining its water from the surface of the ground was due. Judge Works declared the evidence showed it took thirty days for the water to pass through the Huiwee chain of three reservoirs, this storage period alone being sufficient to guarantee the purity of the water.

NEW COMMERCE RULING

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The following special ruling governing commerce with Holland has been made public at the British embassy: "All shipments of petroleum, copper, wheat or wheat flour should be consigned to the Netherlands government when destined for consumption in Holland. All other articles on the contraband list destined for consumption in Holland should be consigned to the Over Sea Trust."

WOMEN'S HEALTH HURT BY WORK IN COTTON FIELDS

This Statement Was Made to Federal Investigator in Dallas on Hearing of Land Industrial Situation

DALLAS, March 19.—The effect on the health of white women, on tenant farms from dragging cotton sacks in the fields at the cotton picking season, was investigated by Mrs. Borden Harriman, of the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations at a hearing on the land problems. Questions by Mrs. Harriman, drew from W. L. Thurman, who said he practices medicine in the Southwest and was now lecturer in Oklahoma, statements that the health of many women was ruined by this work. He also stated that sometimes women did the work until near the time children were to be born, which was very detrimental to the children.

W. B. Yeary, who farms two thousand acres and has banking interests in Texas, said it had a mistaken idea that tenant farmers were shiftless as a class. He said they were highly skilled in cotton raising. Witnesses ascribed some of the migratory tendencies of tenants to the speculative fever of farmers. This, they said, caused them to be more interested in chances to buy and sell land than improving crops and farm conditions. It was said that about one third of the farmers who borrow money in Texas, pay more than the legal rate of interest. The consideration of his farms, covering a county in area, were not reached by commission today. It will be taken up at the closing session tomorrow.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS DISCUSS BLOCKADE

PARIS, Mar. 19.—Newspapers discuss in sober terms the blockade measures of which the U. S. has been notified by France, England acting jointly. The Temps says it considers the American people, who noted their practical good sense will understand the situation created by Germany with her war zones, within which she sinks the merchant ships of neutrals and belligerents alike and imposes upon France and England resources to combat the situation on issues unknown in any previous modern war.

FILIBUSTER ENDED

SACRAMENTO, Mar. 19.—The filibuster on the Young non-partisan bill, which threatened an all night session of the Assembly, came to an end suddenly shortly after ten tonight when the twenty-nine proposed amendments were withdrawn with the understanding that opponents might bring them up again next week. The bill was advanced to third reading and filed. The bill would eliminate party lines at state elections.

BLOCKADE IN THE EUROPEAN WATERS STILL IN QUESTION

United States Does Not Know Whether the Allies Intend a Legal Blockade or Will Apply General Rules

PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED BY AMERICA AT SANTIAGO

This Country Desires That Britain and France Prescribe What May Be Termed "Radius of Activity"

WASHINGTON, March 19.—While the U. S. Government does not know officially whether Britain and her allies intend to maintain a legal blockade or propose to apply the general rules of contraband, and non-contraband, in enforcing the embargo on commercial enterprises, between Germany and neutral countries, American naval officers and officials versed in international law, express the opinion that the indefinite limit in the prescribed "European waters, include the Mediterranean" might be construed as a legal area of operations for the blockade fleet.

In formulation of the policy of the United States relative to the enforcement of neutral shipping by Allied forces, naval officers of high rank constantly have been consulted as to the effect of the diplomatic communications, sent abroad, might there be anything said which could compromise the activities of the American fleet itself in possible future wars.

Much consideration has been given at the conference to newly developed activity of submarines. It is frankly admitted by naval officers that an old form of blockade by warships, close to the enemy's coast, passed with the investment of Santiago in the Spanish-American war. Accordingly, in a message of inquiry to Great Britain and France asking for an explanation of their recent declaration of embargo, the United States conceded that the activity of submarines might make it physically impossible to close or blockade an enemy's coast. It was suggested, if the declaration of the allies is to be construed as a legal blockade, that some "radius of activity" be announced.

AMERICAN MAIL IS ROBBED IN ITALY

NAPLES, March 19.—It was learned here that thieves had broken into a mail car in which 225 bags of mail from the United States to points in Germany, Austria and Turkey were being transported. Several hundred registered letters, almost all written in Greek and Bohemian, were found open. A number of American bank notes were discovered on the floor of the car.

RUSSIAN FLEET NEAR BOSPHORUS

LONDON, (Saturday), Mar. 19.—It is officially confirmed that the Russian squadron has approached the northern part of the Bosphorus. A Reuters Petrograd correspondent: "The appearance of the squadron caused a great panic in Constantinople."

REPORT AERIAL BOMBARDMENT

LONDON, March 19.—A Berlin news agency dispatch declares that reports have reached Berlin to the effect that the British arsenal at Sherrness was bombarded by two German aviators.

KARLSRUHE REPORTED SUNK

LONDON (Saturday), Mar. 20.—The secretary of the British Admiralty announces there is every reason to believe the German cruiser Karlsruhe sank in the neighborhood of the West Indies at the beginning of November and that those of her crew who were rescued reached Germany early in December in the steamer Rio Grande, which was acting in concert with the Karlsruhe.

BREAD RESTRICTION REMOVED

LONDON, March 20.—German newspapers reaching here contain an announcement by the Berlin city council withdrawing the restrictions regarding the use of wheat flour in bread, which formerly could not contain more than 70 per cent of wheat flour. According to the announcement all wheat bread may now be baked without penalty.

UNION MEN FURTHER WORK

LONDON, Mar. 19.—There will be no stoppage of work during the war by the English trades unionists. This result was obtained through conferences with the British chancellor of the exchequer and the committee on imperial defense. The relaxation of trade union regulations will permit of the employment of semi-skilled female labor.

RATE HEARING CONTINUES

CHICAGO, Mar. 19.—Proposed increases on freight rates for cotton goods in western territory were considered at the Interstate Commerce Commission's hearing of the petition of forty-one western railroads. The additional estimated revenue of \$10,000,000 is sought by the railroads through the rate advances on various commodities.